



**W e s t c h e s t e r R E M A C**  
 General Meeting Minutes - March 21, 2011

**Date:** March 21, 2011  
**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Location:** Westchester County Department of Emergency Services  
**Chairman:** Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis, MD

**MEMBERS**

Dr. Mark Silberman  
 Dr. Ron Nutovits  
 Dr. Carlos Flores  
 Dr. Paul Koltovich  
 Dr. Robert Marcus  
 Dr. Emil Nigro  
 Dr. Joseph Ponticiello  
 Dr. Richard Marino  
 Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis  
 Dr. David Goldwag  
 Dr. Tim Haydock

**AFFILIATION:**

Dobbs Ferry Community Hospital  
 Hudson Valley Hospital Center  
 Lawrence Hospital  
 Mt. Vernon Hospital  
 Northern Westchester Hospital  
 Phelps Memorial Hospital Center  
 Sound Shore Medical Center  
 St. John's Riverside Hospital  
 St. Joseph's Medical Center  
 Westchester Medical Center  
 White Plains Medical Center

**ATTENDANCE**

Excused  
 Present  
 Present  
 Absent  
 Present  
 Present  
 Present  
 Absent  
 Present  
 Alternate-Present  
 Present

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

VACANT  
 Dr. Joli Yuknek  
 Dr. Richard Gallager  
 Ray Cordi  
 Roland Faucher  
 Chief Anthony Chiarlitti  
 Eugene Kelly  
 VACANT

Medical Specialty (Trauma)  
 Medical Specialty (Pediatrics)/WPHC  
 Medical Specialty (Psychiatry) / WMC  
 EMS – Proprietary  
 EMS – Voluntary / MVFAVAC  
 Police / Pleasantville PD  
 Fire - Career  
 Fire - Volunteer

VACANT  
 Excused  
 Absent  
 Absent  
 Absent  
 Present  
 Excused  
 VACANT

**GUESTS**

Erik Larsen  
 Michael Volk  
 Daniel Olmoz  
 Anthony Sutton

White Plains Hospital  
 WCDES  
 WCDES  
 WCDES

**MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 AM by Chair Dr. DeRobertis. It was determined that a quorum was present. The minutes from the January meeting were disseminated to the members electronically. There were no corrections requested.

**SEMAC**

Dr. DeRobertis reported that SEMAC will be meeting on March 29th.

**SUBCOMMITTEES/TAG Reports**

**PROTOCOLS** – D. Olmoz reported that the committee anticipates that SEMAC will be reviewing and approving the 2010 AHA Guidelines updates at the March meeting. Once approved, the information from the guidelines update will need to be included in the regional cardiac care protocols.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding post-resuscitation hypothermia for cardiac arrest patients. It was determined that before pre-hospital implementation protocols can be considered, it is necessary to determine the hospitals in the region that have instituted procedures and are able of managing such patients. It was suggested that a survey be created and distributed to all ED directors from regional hospitals to obtain the data. At that point, if it appears feasible, protocols can be developed by the protocol committee.



# W e s t c h e s t e r R E M A C

## General Meeting Minutes - March 21, 2011

**EVALUATION** –Dr. Haydock reported that there has been no action taken by NYSDOH on the last case handled by the committee.

A revised provider evaluation procedure was brought up for discussion by REMAC. However, several members requested additional time to review the material, so the matter will be revisited at the May REMAC meeting.

A list of enforcement notifications received from NYSDOH was read.

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT** – D. Olmoz reported: *Quality Improvement committee had their first meeting since releasing the new policies and procedures. And the major item that's on their agenda is establishing a collaborative forum for all EMS and hospital QI officers. The tentative date was selected for April but I don't necessarily know that that's going to be able to be met. The idea again is to bring all agency representatives and hospital representatives around the table to get the new process moving forward and to start discussing regional issues and regional study areas. The committee is actually scheduled to meet next week to begin finalizing those plans. Some of the reps from the local QI committees are participating now with the REMAC's quality improvement committee and the suggestion was made that a collaborative forum be kind of taken on the road to those locations. So Phelps has a pretty substantial quality improving program as does Westchester EMS-Northern Westchester Hospital and we're looking for a little bit more assistance from the southern aspect of the county. And hopefully we'll be able to go to those locations and not only talk about quality improvement issues but I think the committee also wants to do some education as well speaking about important topics and assisting the coordinators with getting data back to the REMAC. The one thing that I would just advise all the medical directors of EMS agencies that once again part of that new plan asks each agency to submit their updated quality improvement plan to regional office by March 31st. As of this date we haven't received any. So it's probably going to take a few more reminders to get that done. But let's hope that we can get updated quality improvement plans, agency QI plans back to the REMAC so that we can go through them and see what needs to be addressed and what education would be most appropriate for these organizations.*

Discussion ensued regarding what enforcement REMAC has if an EMS agency fails to satisfy QI requirements. It was believed that ultimate NYSDOH has authority in this regard, however the REMAC certainly has leverage when it comes to ALS agencies since QI participation is a requirement of the regional Medical Control Plan. It was pointed out that additional modifications may be needed to the Medical control Plan to enhance these requirements.

**STEMI TAG** – no report.

**INTERFACILITY TRANSPORT TAG** – No report.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**HUDSON VALLEY / WESTCHESTER HELICOPTER COMMITTEE** – It was noted that the last meeting scheduled for March was cancelled.

**HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL TRAUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)** – No report

It was noted that the REMAC did receive applications from Westchester Medical Center for a Doctor Marini who is the new chief of trauma services and Doctor Turkowski who is the director of burn services. And the reason we received the applications was because within the REMAC bylaws there is a membership position for the trauma specialist services so I believe the Medical Center intends to have Doctor Marini as the delegate to REMAC and Doctor Turkowski as his alternate. So that paperwork was received and now their contact information will be added to the distribution lists.

**DIVERSION REPORT** – M. Volk reported: *Well we've been monitoring diversions. There was a conference call two weeks ago with one of the hospitals in the south part of the county who had some continuous issues with diversion that seemed to have quieted down some. So I think it was more lending them a hand to see if there was anything we could do as far as notify the EMS agencies or their administration to communicate about the diversion status but, so far so good.*



# W e s t c h e s t e r R E M A C

## General Meeting Minutes - March 21, 2011

*Obviously we have on a regular basis some hospitals coming down but overall I think the numbers are probably higher than they were last year but I think at least within the last few weeks have been quieting down.*

Dr. DeRobertis added: *Yeah I think that conference call actually is very helpful. You want all parties involved. Because we understood some of the hardships some of the hospital is having that you may possibly have not understood completely. So I think that worked out very, very well.*

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding hospital diversion causes and possible solutions. It was suggested that the REMAC consider instituting a "no diversion" policy for EMS. However, several in-hospital issues were identified that are considered outside the authority of REMAC. It was proposed that a technical advisory group be established to review the issues and develop recommendations for diversion improvements to REMAC. Dr. Ponticello was asked to represent the REMAC's interests on the TAG and it was recommended that members of the Regional Resource Center and Department of Emergency Services also participate.

### NOTICES OF INTENT

**PAD** – we received a public access defibrillation notice for Greenwich Hospital satellite location in Ryebrook New York. That was all appropriate and that was forwarded on to the New York State Department of Health.

One other thing that I would point out under public access defibrillation is that we did receive notification from the Department of Health about an organization called JCC of Mid Westchester. They're located in Scarsdale in case anybody happens to be the organization's medical director or they were approached to be an emergency health care provider. Apparently they are not compliant with the public access defibrillation laws according to the New York State Department of Health. There was a complaint filed by the Attorney General's office and they have now been issued notice that they're in violation of that.

**APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL PERMISSIONS (i.e. Albuterol, Mark I, EMTD)** – we worked with Bedford Fire Department because it was identified by the New York State Department of Health that they didn't have a notice of intent for their EPIPEN program on file and we identified that they had some leadership changes. We worked with them and were able to finally get that paperwork processed so now everything's legitimate.

### OLD BUSINESS

It was noted that the recently approved EMS Resource Utilization Guidelines have been distributed to all EMS agencies and medical directors. As has the Air Medical Services Guidelines

### NEW BUSINESS

It was noted that a few new policy statements were released by NYSDOH including an update of the policy regarding medical direction. This policy now indicates that all EMS or EMS related activities require medical director oversight. In another Department of Health policy in regard to MOLST, it was updated because the prior version was not accepted formally by the Office of Mental Health and Office of Mental Disabilities and that now has taken place so it's pretty much universal now at this point.

Dr. DeRobertis reported that there has been some EMS Mutual Aid issues discovered that are of concern. It was identified that a few agencies have begun utilizing paid staff members and have implemented a policy that does not allow the paid members to respond out of the agency's primary service area for mutual aid. A meeting was hosted by the REMSCO and Department of Emergency Services to explore possible solutions. The medical directors of the agencies involved have indicated they are not comfortable with the policy. However, to date it is believed that the practice continues. It is anticipated that additional discussion will take place in this regard to identify remedies.

One other topic I needed to discuss real quick was the City of White Plains Department of Public Safety Advanced Life Support First Response system. If you'll recall back in 2009 the REMAC had approved and the regional EMS council had approved the City of White Plains to begin operations as an advanced life support first response unit service for their rescue medical team. The Department of Health issued an approval letter on March 18th of 2009 after all the paperwork was completed and they indicated the city should be making re-submission for that temporary approval to become permanent. They were told to apply at least 120 days prior to the expiration date. The expiration date was March 17th. That didn't happen in timely fashion and because of it their



W e s t c h e s t e r R E M A C  
General Meeting Minutes - March 21, 2011

---

certification by the New York State Department of Health has lapsed. That has now forced them to also relinquish their narcotics; and the regional EMS council is working with them to move forward their application for permanent status although it's a very monumental task in itself just by design. So that will eventually be coming forward as another agenda item for the REMAC in that the REMAC will once again have to voice support as an advanced life support agency for this entity once they get to that point.

**NEXT MEETING** –The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 16, 2011** at 9:00am.

Session was adjourned at 10:50am.

A webcast of this meeting is available at [www.wremsco.org](http://www.wremsco.org)

Respectfully submitted by D. Olmoz